

Mid America Workforce Investment Board Meeting
February 8, 2024
Meeting Minutes
Belleville One Stop

Members Present:

Eric Brammeier	Edmond Brown	Cliff Cross
Cristina Fernandez	Matthew Gomric	Ashley Holmes
Larry McLean	Rick Parks	Mike Reed
Donna Richter	Richard Sauget Jr.	Mereadith Shivers
Dawn Swift	Vicky Watts McElroy	Tony White
Larry Unverfehrt		

County Board Chairs:

Ronald White

Staff:

Rick Stubblefield	Lee Reese	Brenda Boggs	Cindy Layman
Linda Vanderpluym			

Guests:

Amber Shields

Chairman Rich Sauget called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM. Lee Reese conducted roll call and a quorum was established. Chairman Sauget took a moment to introduce Ron White, Chairman for Randolph County and Amber Shields, serving as an at-large business representative for Randolph County that will replace Lynette Drake on the MAWIB Board.

With no public comment being offered, Chairman Sauget proceeded to committee reports.

Lee presented the Systems Development & Oversight Committee report. He summarized the meeting minutes from 01/23/24. Lee discussed the Local and Regional four-year Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Plans. Lee stated the plans are scheduled to be submitted as required by Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Lee shared that the plans will be sent out to the Board for review before the plans are posted for public comment on February 16th. Lee then discussed the One-stop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and One-stop Budget Negotiations process. Lee discussed the new One-stop Operator, ScaleIT. Lee stated that there had been two meetings in which ScaleIT, serving as the One-stop Operator facilitated meetings to complete a Service Integration Self-Assessment that is required to be submitted with the Local WIOA Plan. Under Partner Updates, Ahley Holmes shared information on a G.R.E.A.T. Event that will be held on April 18th at 4:30 pm at Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) in the gym. This event is to provide resources to parents and

families of students with disabilities. Cristina Fernandez shared that management staff are returning full-time to the offices. IDES is still seeing customers by appointment only for unemployment services.

Lee presented the Marketing Committee (MC) report. He summarized the meeting minutes from 01/24/24. Lee shared that the MC would bring the marketing plan that Paul Ellis drafted back to the committee to see what parts of the plan can be implemented. Lee shared that the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant (AEG) has evolved from using Regional Apprenticeship Navigators to using the Regional Business services Teams (RBST) to develop apprenticeships, work-based learning, and business services. Lee shared that the State Supplemental Grant (SSG) awarded to IGD, approximately \$64,000+, will be used to reimburse SWIC for Manufacturing Day 2023 to allow the funds already raised for the event to be moved forward for funding Manufacturing Day 2024. The rest of the funds for the SSG will be used to partner with The Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois (LC) to use the Oculus Virtual headsets to provide career awareness for schools in Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, and Washington counties. Lee shared that the State WIOA Summit will be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville April 24th and 25th this year. Lee gave an overview of the Summit and encouraged the Board members to attend.

Larry McLean presented for the Youth Council meeting that was scheduled for 01/25/24. There were not enough members present to have a quorum for a meeting. Larry did share that Youth performance is going well.

Tony White presented for the Executive Committee meeting that was held on 02/06/24. Tony shared that the Executive Committee reviewed and the 10/03/23 and 10/16/23 minutes. Tony shared that the minutes and consent agenda were approved.

The meeting moved to Partner updates. Cristina Fernandez shared that SNAP and cash assistance numbers are high. Ashley Holmes added information on the G.R.E.A.T Event to be held at SWIC April 18th at 4:30 pm in the gym. Ashley shared that there will be an event at Perandoe in Red Bud in March and that she would forward the info to Lee to get out to the Board when she received the info. Meredith Shivers, Adult Education Director at SWIC shared that in March, her department will be starting a Healthcare Bridge program for individuals without a high school diploma. The program is designed to help students obtain their high school equivalency credential while exploring multiple paths in the healthcare field. Dawn Swift with IDES shared that IDES services are still by appointment only.

Lee presented the Operations Report, highlighting the performance reports in the packet. Lee reiterated that Measurable Skills Gain for Youth is currently at the “Exceed” mark. Lee shared that the six measures related to employment that were not yet at “meet” are being targeted by staff for improvement.

Lee presented on the Quarterly Services Report. Lee shared that services have continued to increase and are substantially better than this term last year. Lee shared that new staff has been added that staff

is one person short from being back to full staff. Lee was asked by a Board member why he thought improvement is occurring. Lee shared that staff has received training on customer-center design concepts, trauma induced decision making by individuals, and culture of poverty. Lee shared that the staff is looking at the whole person and not just employment and training.

Lee and Rick presented on the financial statements given to the Board. Rick introduced staff members Cindy Layman, Brenda Boggs, and Linda Vanderpluym. It was shared that grant #202 was spent and finished. Rick discussed where grant #203 was and that the grant is over obligated and based on future events, a modification of that grant will be necessary. Rick shared that adult funding is at a point where customers are currently going on a waiting list. Rick shared that out-of-school youth is the primary focus for the remaining funds in grant #203 until July 1st when grant #204 comes into use.

Lee mentioned that the One-stop was operating at pre-pandemic levels except for IDES.

Larry McLean was asked to conduct Board Officer elections for Board Chairman, Board 1st Vice Chairman, and Board 2nd Vice Chairman. Larry sent an email to all Board members asking for nominations and the membership recommended that the current Board Officers remain and serve another term. Larry called three times for any nominations, and none were offered. Rick Parks made a motion to close the nominations and to re-elect the current Board Officers to the same positions. Mike Reed seconded the motion. The motions were approved unanimously.

Lee mentioned that the MOU and Budget for the One-stop underwent revisions in October of 2023 and were submitted at that time. The revisions require approval and a cover letter be submitted by the MAWIB Board within five days of the next MAWIB meeting. Lee stated that the MOU Revision letter in the Board packet needs approval to be submitted to DCEO to complete the October 2023 revision process.

Lee gave an overview for the reason to request a change in the local attendance policy. The change is in response to a suggestion by DCEO during the June 2023 monitoring process.

Lee gave an overview of the request to amend the current local work-based learning policy to add language to comply with the new Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA).

Lee asked if there were any questions on the WIOA Four-year Local and Regional WIOA plans or on the One-stop MOU and/or Budget. There were no questions.

For the Training programs Lee gave a brief overview of the training programs requesting approval.

Lee asked for approval of Incumbent Worker Project for Carlyle Healthcare, Carlyle (Clinton County), \$11,371.85, 1 employee. Rick explained that funding for the project would be after July 1st, 2024, when new funding would apply.

Brenda Boggs gave an overview of the success story about Darmeze Fenderson that was included in the Board packet. Brenda also discussed how the Youth Program strives to help customers find good quality employment.

Chairman Sauget requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, Items 1 – 6, which consisted of:

- 1) Approval of One-Stop MOU Changes
- 2) Approval of Change to Attendance Policy
- 3) Approval of Change to Work-based Learning Policy
- 4) 07/27/23 & 10/12/23 Meeting Minutes – the minutes were reviewed by the Executive Committee
- 5) Approval of Training Programs
- 6) Approval Incumbent Worker Training Projects

Matt Gomric made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Cliff Cross and the items were unanimously approved.

Chairman Sauget asked if there was any comment from the visitors present. There were no comments.

Chairman Sauget reminded the Board members that the next scheduled MAWIB Board meeting will be April 4th, 2024, at 8:30 am at the America's Job Center. There being no comments from Board Members, Chairman Sauget asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Eric Brammeier and seconded by Matt Gomric. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 AM.